THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Assam Gas Cracker Project

3655. DR. (SMT) JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the status of physical implementation of Assam Gas Cracker Project at site;

(b) what are the impediments for non-starting of project activities at site by RAPL;

(c) whether it is a fact that inordinate delay by Central Government in clearing the feedstock related issues has been hampering launching of activities at site by the co- promoter for the last five and a half years; and

(d) whether co-promoter is delaying the process by repeatedly raising issues which are not so important for the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (d) M / s. Reliance Assam Petrochemicals Ltd. (RAPL), a joint venture of Assam Industrial Development Corporation (AIDC) and Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL), holds a LOI for setting up a Gas Cracker Project in Assam. RAPL had taken some measures such as identification of site, part acquisition of land, conducting Environment Impact Assessment Study etc. However, in view of the objections raised by the Chabua Air Force Authorities, the project was required to be relocated. An alternate site has since been identified and Environment Impact Assessment Study has commenced. As regards issue of feedstock supply, RAPL and Oil India Ltd. (OIL) have initialled the agreed clauses of Gas Supply Agreement on March 14, 2000. However, some issues such as composition of gas, flow rates etc. are currently under negotiation between RAPL and OIL. RAPL maintains that the project is expected to be commissioned within 44 months from the date of finalisation of the Gas Supply Agreement and the handing over of land, whichever is later.

Assam Gas Cracker Project

3656. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether commissioning of Assam Gas Cracker Project has been finalised;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating MoU, total outlays, source of funds and schedule of construction as well as commissioning;

(c) if not, the issues yet to be settled and by which date the project is to be cleared;

(d) whether the merger of BRPL and IOCL has been finalised;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(ii) if not, the reasons therefor and expected time of merger or any other alternative proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (c) The Assam Gas Cracker Project is being implemented by Reliance Assam Petrochemicals Ltd. (RAPL), a joint venture of Assam Industrial Development Corporation (AIDC) and Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL). The progress in implementation of the project was affected on account of delay in finalisation of the Gas Supply Agreement and finalisation of location. On March 14,2000, RAPL and Oil India Ltd. (OIL) have initialled the agreed clauses of the Gas Supply Agreement. The site for the project was required to be shifted in view of the objections raised by the Chabua Air Force Authorities. An alternate site has since been identified and Environment Impact Assessment Study commenced. RAPL maintains that the project is expected to be commissioned within 44 months from the date of finalisation of Gas Supply Agreement and handing over of land, which ever is later.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (0 Do not arise.

Gap between the Demand and Supply of Fertilizers

†3657. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a wide gap between the demand and supply of fertilisers and there is no uniformity in their prices in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the fertiliser industry is facing financial problem in carrying out its capacity and expansion programmes;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.